

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The "broadcast flag" will interfere with the legitimate personal use of digital content.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?
Probably.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes; if it were implemented in such a manner as to not interfere with equipment that predates its adoption, it would be completely useless for its purported purpose.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Whether it is their intent or not is completely irrelevant; it would have that effect.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

It seems likely that this proposal would lead to a quasi-monopoly, where only manufacturers who had their products "certified" would be able to sell to the general public. This could have no effect except to raise the cost of consumer electronic devices, possibly quite substantially.

Other Comments:

The entertainment industry has demonstrated that they already have more than adequate means to protect their rights and prevent illegal distribution of their property. This proposal is an unnecessary, and frankly quite offensive and obnoxious, attempt to restrict the personal "fair use" of broadcast material. It is in the spirit of past attempts to ban home VCRs.